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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/743,279

Examiner

Danny Nguyen

Applicant(s)

DE LA FUENTE DE ANA ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/21/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's attorney William R. Evans on 8/1/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1,

Line 11, "the improvements" changes to "the system".

Line 12, "athin" changes to "a thin".

Claim 3, line 2 "the said" changes to "said".

Claim 20,

Line 13, "the improvements" changes to "the system".

Line 14, "athin" changes to "a thin".

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-20 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 1 recites a system for protecting a structure against electrical discharge, the structure comprises the first metallic mesh (1) is a thin metallic wire mesh laid up and cured simultaneously with the outer skin (I) of composite; the second metallic mesh

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(2) is a metallic wire mesh thicker than the thin metallic wire mesh that overlaps the first metallic mesh (1) a minimum of 50 mm from the row of the fasteners (III), and has been put by simultaneously with the curing of the outer skin (I) and subsequently drilled and countersunk for installation of the fastener (III); and metallic countersunk washers (3) in a subset of the row of the fasteners (HI) so that there is at least one of the metallic countersunk washers (3) every 200 mm, each of the metallic countersunk washers (3) being installed at a gap existing between each of the fasteners (III) and a corresponding hole in the outer skin (I) and the internal part.

Claim 20 recites a system for protecting a structure against electrical discharge, the structure comprises an outer skin (I) of composite having an exterior surface and opposite surface, an internal part (II) of either composite or metallic material having one side facing the outer skin and another side, and a row of metallic fasteners (III) every 200 mm along the row respectively having nuts (T) on first ends for fastening the outer skin (I) with the internal part (II), the first metallic mesh (1) is a thin metallic wire mesh laid up and cured simultaneously with the outer skin (I) of composite; the second metallic mesh (2) is a metallic wire mesh thicker than the thin metallic wire mesh, overlaps the first metallic mesh (1) a minimum of 50 mm from opposite sides of the row of the fasteners (III), and has been put by simultaneously with the curing of the outer skin (I) and subsequently drilled and countersunk for installation of the row of the fasteners (III); and metallic countersunk washers (3) across a gap between the fasteners (III) of the row and the drilled and countersunk outer skin (I).

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The references of record do not teach or suggest the aforementioned limitations, nor would it be obvious to modify those references to include such limitations.

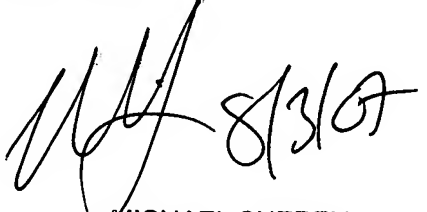
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL SHERRY can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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8/1/2007

  
MICHAEL SHERRY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER